Deterioration in quality in Telecom Services

*131. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rapid deterioration is service quality in telecom sector over the past few months;

(b) whether a committee of Telecom Regulatory authority was formed on this matter;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) formed a committee to analyse the actual position of congestion of traffic on Point of Interconnections (POIs).

(c) The committee visited three places and its observation include congestion between the Trunk Automatic Exchanges (TAXs) of BSNL and Point of Interconnections (POIs) of Private Operators, heavy loading of Level 1 TAXs, non availability of direct connectivity between cellular network of BSNL and private operators.

(d) The review of inter operator traffic at POIs and network upgradation in terms of augmentation of equipment, re-routing of traffic is a continuous exercise taken up by the service providers within the framework of interconnect agreement between them.

STD/ISD/PCO booths in Assam

*133. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths set up in Assam during the last three years, District-wise;

(b) the number of such booths proposed to be set up in the State during the year 2006-07; and

(c) the details of funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number of STD/ISD/PCOs provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in various Telecom districts (Secondary Switching Areas) of Assam during the last three years (from 01.04.2003 to 31.01.2006) is 11,389 as per details given in the enclosed Statement (see below).

(b) According to the present policy of BSNL, PCOs are allotted to all the applicants who are of 18 years or above of age and the same are provided on first come first served basis subject to technical feasibility. The number of booths to be installed during the year 2006-2007 depends on the demand.

(c) STD/ISD/PCO franchisee is responsible for the hiring/furnishing of premises, construction of booth, procurement of telephone instrument, PCO monitor etc. Only telephone line is provided by BSNL. No separate fund is earmarked for PCO lines as these are part of the Direct Exchange Lines.

Statement

Number of STD/ISD/PCOs provided by BSNL during the last three years in Assam

SI. No.	Name of Telecom District/SSA	Number of STD/ISD/Local PCOs opened during last three years					
		2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006 (upto 31.01.2006)	
		Local PCOs	STD/ISD PCOs	Local PCOs	STD/ISD PCOs	Local PCOs	STD/ISD PCOs
1.	Bongaigaon	12	536	03	782	04	438
2.	Dibrugarh	17	305	21	331	11	245
3.	Jorhat	13	240	01	103	00	161
4.	Kamrup	00	1507	04	1748	11	994
5.	Nagaon	05	408	08	199	00	237
6.	Silchar	00	593	04	553	00	407
7.	Tezpur	01	550	07	525	00	405
	Total	48	4139	48	4241	26	2887